

environmental sensitivities

FACTS

Environmental sensitivities have been experienced for generations. Medical literature abounds over more than a century.

Sensitivities can be caused by a variety of diseases, sometimes but not always involving the immune system. A 1985 Ontario government report lists symptoms in every body system.

Sensitivities are recognized by more than fifteen federal departments, by seven ministries in Ontario, by the World Health Organization and in the United States by NASA, the Attorney General and the National Academy of Sciences.

Some authorities have caused damages by making unsubstantiated statements affecting the credibility of consumers' experience and needs. Families have broken up. Professional reputations have been destroyed. Physicians have caused increased disability. Some consumers have been driven to suicide.

Despite widespread recognition, abuse by physicians continues. Health Canada, under ministers Perrin Beatty and Benoit Bouchard, recommended ways to protect persons whose central nervous system dysfunction is caused by sensitivities by screening them out of the general psychiatric population. This would prevent horrific physical and emotional abuse in just one of several high risk groups. Diane Marleau has abandoned the effort.

While preventable abuse continues, many journalists and policy makers continue to focus on an either-or debate which illogically plays the variety of causes of sensitivities against each other.

- Chris Brown (613-236-7683)

Myths

~ Environmental sensitivities are a relatively recent phenomenon.

~ Sensitivities are new to medicine.

~ Sensitivities are a disease entity.

~ The various causes of sensitivities are mutually exclusive and can be argued one against the other.

~ Few mainstream authorities recognize environmental sensitivities.

~ Abuse is not abuse if the abuser is a physician who claims to be helping.

~ Damages caused by abusers have been simply hurt feelings and the unavailability of medical treatments.

~ Journalists protect peoples' right to a good reputation.

~ It's okay for journalists to pass on unsubstantiated damaging opinion, if it is the opinion of a physician. Normal rules of evidentiary reason, due process and the opportunity to respond do not apply.

~ Health, civil and medical authorities would not knowingly allow serious, ongoing, preventable abuse of Canadians.

~ The disabled are treated like any other group by journalists and officialdom.